

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that the Otego Volunteer Fire Department will receive \$71,141 from the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for operations and safety.

"All homeland security begins with our local fire departments, that is why I am pleased to announce this grant to help Otego Fire Department continue to perform the important work that it does so well," said **Arcuri, a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus**.

The Otego Fire Department will use the funds to purchase radio communications equipment, a station generator to ensure energy in a power outage and air compressors to help firefighters breathe in hazardous environments.

"Most volunteer fire departments have to raise money through taxes, but this federal grant allows us to purchase equipment that seriously improves firefighters' safety with no financial impact to local taxpayers," said **Dale Downin, Delaware County deputy fire coordinator**.

The AFG program provides funds to firefighters, emergency response personnel and first responders to protect the health and safety of workers and local citizens. Since 2004, the program has granted nearly \$2.2 billion nationwide.

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